Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): A closed loop postage metering system comprising:

    a meter provider infrastructure including a meter database;

    a postal infrastructure in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure, the postal infrastructure including equipment and processes for submission, processing, transporting and delivery of a mail piece;

    a mailer system in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure and the postal infrastructure, the mailer system including a postage meter, the postage meter accounting for and printing postage value for the mail piece and printing on the mail piece information identifying services requested for the mail piece;

    wherein the postal infrastructure determines an adjusted postage value for

    the mail piece based on the occurrence of events related to the

    requested services during the processing the mail piece; and

    wherein the postal infrastructure sends the adjusted postage value to the

    meter for the meter to account for the adjusted postage value.

2. (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the meter provider infrastructure

    includes an events database and the postal infrastructure includes a planned

    events database and a transaction database used during the processing of

    the mail items.

3. (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the requested services are

    conditioned on the occurrence of at least one certain event.

4. (original): A method for processing mail items, the method comprising the

    steps of:

{I0029632.1 }

creating a mail piece;

creating a list of planned events associated with the mail piece;

creating parameters and decision functions associated with the planned
events;

printing on the mail piece by a postage meter mail piece information including
a unique identification of the mail piece, evidence of postage payment
identification of the postage meter and services requested for the
mailpiece;

inducting the mail piece into a postal infrastructure;

scanning the mail piece to determine if one of the planned events has
occurred;

if a planned event has occurred obtaining the mail piece information with
sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including
identification of the postage meter; and

sending a message to the meter relating to the occurrence of the planned
event, the message including the mail piece information.

5.   (currently amended): The method of claim 34 comprising the further step of:
accounting by the meter for the occurrence of the planned event.

6.   (currently amended): The method of claim 34 comprising the further steps of:
if a planned event has not occurred obtaining the mail piece information with
sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including
identification of the postage meter;

sending a message to the meter relating to the non-occurrence of the planned
event; and

accounting by the meter for the non-occurrence of the planned event.

7.   (original): A method for managing postal workshare discounts, the method
comprising the steps of:

{I0029632.1 }

prepare a batch of mail in a manner intended for the batch of mail to qualify for certain postal workshare discounts;

applying at least one of a unique mail piece identification or unique batch identification on each mail piece in the batch of mail;

inducting the batch of mail for postal processing;

accounting in a meter for payment for the batch of mail based on an estimated workshare discount and submitting the payment;

determining during the postal processing the actual workshare discount that the batch of mail is entitled to; and

sending a correction discount amount to the meter to update the accounting in the meter.

{10029632.1 }